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Letter dated 26 August 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, and further to my letter of 12 August 1998 (A/52/1016-S/1998/746), I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, which took place today, 26 August 1998.

Four Turkish military aircraft RF-4 and two military aircraft F-4 entered the northern Nicosia flight information region in violation of international air traffic regulations. The four RF-4 aircraft thereupon violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by overflying for a considerable period of time the areas of Kormakitis, Kyrenia, Karpasia and Famagusta. The aircraft then exited the airspace of the Republic and the Nicosia flight information region, heading towards Turkey.

As stated in my previous letters, such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules and, at the same time, they are in contravention of the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus which state that such overflights increase tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest against these new provocative acts by Turkey against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. They are in blatant disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) James DROUSHIOTIS
Chargé d'affaires a.i.